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Message Text

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64
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-13 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EPAP, CS
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT CALLS FOR INCREASE IN MEAT QUOTA

1. PRESIDENT ODUBER, WHO TAKES A CLOSE PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE CATTLE INDUSTRY AND THE MEAT EXPORT SITUATION, TOLD THE COSTA RICAN PEOPLE OVER NATIONWIDE TELEVISION AUGUST 31, ONLY 12 HOURS BEFORE CONSULTATIONS ON MEAT WERE TO BEGIN WITH VISITING DEPARTMENT (EB) OFFICER PAUL TAYLOR, THAT "WE HOPE THAT OUR NORTH AMERICAN FRIENDS FULFILL THE OFFER MADE TO ME AND TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER TO INCREASE OUR QUOTA SO THAT WE CAN EXPORT ALL OF THE MEAT THAT WE ARE PROCESSING."

2. FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO ANNOUNCED THE SAME DAY THAT HE HAD REQUESTED THAT HIS RESIGNATION (TO ENTER THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN) BE EFFECTIVE SEPT. 1 BUT THAT PRESIDENT ODUBER HAD PREVAILED UPON HIM TO REMAIN ON DUTY FOR ONE MORE MONTH "IN ORDER TO FIND SOLUTIONS TO A SERIES OF PENDING MATTERS IN-CLUDING THAT OF AN INCREASE IN THE US QUOTA FOR COSTA RICAN MEAT." ACCEDING TO THE REQUEST, THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE WOULD ATTEND THE SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHERE HE WOULD DELIVER AN ADDRESS SEPT-EMBER 27.

3. FACIO ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WOULD BE IN GUANACASTE
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TODAY (COSTA RICA'S PERMIER CATTLE AREA) MEETING WITH

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CATTLE PRODUCERS TO EXPLAIN TO THEM THE STATUS OF HIS ACTIVITIES TO ACHIEVE AN INCREASE IN THE MEAT QUOTA. THE NEWSPAPER REPORT IN LA NACION COMMENTED THAT FACIO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THE US WHERE HE CARRIED OUT ACTIVITIES IN THIS REGARD.

4. COMMENTS: IT IS CLEAR THAT ODUBER AND FACIO WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR AN INCREASE IN THE COSTA RICAN MEAT QUOTA AND THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE A COMMITMENT IN THAT SENSE. ODUBER MADE THIS PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD YESTERDAY AT A TIME WHEN GOCR COULD HARDLY HAVE BEEN UNAWARE THAT THE MESSAGE THAT MR. TAYLOR WOULD BRING WOULD RELATE TO THE NEED TO ADJUST THEIR SHIPMENTS TO THEIR CURRENT ALLOCATION LEVEL. CONSULTATIONS TODAY WENT SMOOTHLY (SEPTEL) WITH THE COSTA RICANS MAKING THEIR POINTS FORTHRIGHTLY AND WELL BUT WITHOUT ANIMUS AND WITH UNDERSTANDING FOR OUR PROBLEMS. IT WOULD APPEAR THEN THAT THE BASIC COSTA RICAN APPROACH TO MEAT PROBLEMS AT THIS TIME IS TO COOPERATE AT THE TECHNICAL AND OFFICIAL LEVEL WITH THE PROGRAM, FULFILLING THEIR OBLIGATIONS, WHILE CONTINUING TO HOPE FOR SOME RELIEF AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
TODMAN

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